

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following amendments are requested, and are shown by strike-through for deleted matter and underlining for added matter:

(0015) In one application of the invention, polypropylene or polyester staple fibers are employed in the manufacture of the nonwoven layer, and this layer may be either flat felt or may include a pile. The nonwoven layer may be treated with a topical flame retardant, may be extruded with the fibers, or may be provided in the latex. ~~In some applications, the flame retardant may be processed into the fibers.~~ Some applications of the invention include a topical coating or treatment of a fluorochemical, which may be added to the pile side of the nonwoven layer to improve cleanability and enhance water resistance.

(0017) An applicator 18 (in one particular embodiment of the invention) may provide a flame retardant or lubricant composition to the staple fiber 12. Figure 1 illustrates one form of the nonwoven layer. Staple fibers 12 are laid up in a continuous web 11, as in Figure 1, using for instance a conventional lapper 13. The web 11 is advanced past a needle loom 15 and is needled into a continuous batt 14 using needles. The batt 14 may be needled from both sides or from one side, and further may be needled with a series of needle looms 15, or simultaneously by multiple needle looms 15 (multiple looms not shown in Figure 1). The actual configuration employed can vary. The needled bat 14 may be selectively turned and/or advanced by ~~brush~~ conveyor 26. Further, the batt 14 can be needled from either side in loom 17. Such

needling equipment is available from Dilo ~~Machinensystem GmbH~~ ~~Manufacturing Company~~

, Inc. of Germany, and also from Fehrer AG ~~Inc.~~ of Austria.

(0020) In general, the nonwoven needled layer 28 shown in Figure 1 may be comprised of mechanically interlocked staple fibers. In one embodiment, the nonwoven needled layer 28 includes a first pile-containing side 36 shown in Figure 3, and a second side which does not contain pile (second side 37 shown in Figure 3)(sometimes called the "back" side). Thus, Figure 3 shows the resulting layered textile product formed according to the procedure outlined in Figure 2, described below.

(0038) In one application of the invention, a textile is provided which comprises a nonwoven needled layer 28, comprised of polymeric fibers. The polymeric fibers may include fibers which are selected ~~are~~ from polyester staple fibers or polypropylene staple fibers, with the nonwoven needled layer 28 having a first pile-containing side 36 and a second side 37 opposite the first pile-containing side 36. Furthermore, a polyester-based adhesive layer may be applied to the second side of the nonwoven needled layer 28. Then, a polyurethane-based film layer is bonded to the nonwoven needled layer 28 by the use of adhesive. In some cases, the polyurethane-based film layer may include a flame retardant as well. Other applications of the invention could employ a fluorochemical coating upon the first pile containing side of the nonwoven needled layer 28.